

From: Paul Frey [p.frey@calwestseeds.com]

Sent: Monday, August 04, 2008 10:40 AM

To: Context, DeltaVision@CALFED

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Subject: Importance of Agricultural Production in the Clarksburg region

My name is Paul Frey, President/CEO of Cal/West Seeds headquartered in Woodland, California. Cal/West Seeds is a farmer owned cooperative specialized in the development, production and marketing of value added proprietary seeds. For more information, visit our website at www.calwestseeds.com.

The Clarksburg area is an important seed research and production area for our company. We understand that our ability to continue producing seeds in the region may be threatened by plans currently being considered by the Delta Vision Committee. While I don't have all the details regarding what is being contemplated, I would like to take this opportunity to inform the committee on the economic importance of our production in the Clarksburg region.

100% of the world's supply of Dichondra seed is produced in this region. Dichondra is an ornamental turf product that requires very unique and specialized growing conditions. The soil and climate conditions in the Clarksburg area are favorable for Dichondra enabling us to produce a quality crop of seed on a consistent basis. We estimate the value of this production to be approximately \$3.5 million annually.

Safflower is another important crop for us in the Clarksburg area. In addition to breeding nurseries, we produce commercial safflower for certified planting seed as well as safflower grain for commercial use. The high water table in the area makes it possible for growers to produce consistently high yields of a quality product. Cal/West Seeds is participating in the commercialization of GLA safflower. This new technology makes it possible for safflower growers to produce a product that is high in GLA (Gamma Linolenic Acid) a nutritional supplement with multiple benefits both from a medical perspective and as a nutritional supplement. Due to its human health benefits, GLA safflower oil will sell at a premium price over traditional safflower oil. The Clarksburg area's growing conditions make it ideally suited for production of this new product that can provide an economic benefit to the local economy.

Our company is keenly interested in ensuring that the state of California continues to supply the needed water for Agriculture, one of the states largest industries. Water management has a huge impact on our members and our company's ability to be competitive in the world market. For more than 70 years we have been producing and supply seeds grown in California to customer across the country and in over 30 countries. When prime farmland is removed from production or we can no longer afford to pay the costs of production and remain competitive, we are forced to move our production to other counties, states and/or countries which can have a negative effect on a local economy and the economy of the state.

On behalf of our Board of Directors and the members of Cal/West Seeds, I urge you to consider the important contribution that Agriculture plays in the Clarksburg area. Hopefully you have options at your disposal that will avoid the loss of agricultural production in this region and still allow for the expansion in infrastructure needed to increase the state's water storage and delivery options.

Sincerely,
Paul Frey
President/CEO
Cal/West Seeds